

MEDIA RELEASE

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IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE SAFE! Animal tests fail us again as French drug trial goes horribly wrong

Disturbing [news](#) broke recently that a clinical trial in France, has gone terribly wrong leaving one human volunteer dead and others at risk of permanent brain damage.

The men were volunteers in a Phase 1 clinical trial of a new drug, [code named BIA 10-2474](#), to treat pain and anxiety by Biotrial - a drug evaluation company based in Rennes, on behalf of the Portuguese pharmaceutical company Bial.

Considering the drug had progressed from preclinical (animal) tests it was presumed to have been safe.

Helen Marston, CEO, Humane Research Australia: *"This is yet another clear example that animals tests are not predictive of human outcomes."*

Link to full blog [here](#).

"Considering that 95% of drugs that enter clinical trials do not make it to the market, despite all promise of the (animal) models used to develop them¹ it is becoming increasingly clear that our methods of testing need to change, and instead of focusing on animals with different genetics and metabolism to us, we need to embrace the technologies that are specific to humans – not monkeys or mice – because it's quite obvious that animal tests provide dangerously misleading data." **Ms Marston concluded.**

¹ Look Back in Anger – What Clinical Studies Tell Us About Preclinical Work Thomas Hartung, Altex 30, 3/13 (http://altweb.jhsph.edu/altex/30_3/FFTHartung.pdf)